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The International Nursing Network for HIV Research: A Global Partnership Advancing Nursing Science

Joseph D. Perazzo, PhD, RN
College of Nursing, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, USA
J. Craig Phillips, LLM, PhD, RN, ARNP, ACRN, FAAN
Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada
Allison R. Webel, PhD, RN
Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, USA
William Holzemer, PhD, RN, FAAN
School of Nursing, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, USA

Purpose:

The purpose of this presentation is to share an overview of the history and current status of the International Nursing Network for HIV Research, and provide theoretical and pragmatic insights into the ways in which nurse researchers can adapt a similar model of interprofessional collaboration to increase their research presence in other areas of research and implementation science.

Methods:

Using a protocol dissemination framework, we outline primary components and procedures that form the foundation of our network including procedures related to: forming local, global, and academic partnerships for collaborative research projects; establishing project leadership and protocol development; data collection and management; and dissemination of research findings. Finally, we will share how the network continues to evolve and adopt new technologies (e.g., social media, electronic data capture systems) to enhance our collaboration and dissemination efforts.

Results:

Nursing research includes studies framed by evidence-based theoretical frameworks and novel measures of human experience and biomedical indicators of health (National Institute of Nursing Research [NINR], 2017; Tully & Grady, 2015). Nurse-led research contributes invaluable data to inform health interventions that improve the health and quality of life of populations worldwide (NINR, 2017). Technology enables teams across the globe to form collaborative work groups to advance science with larger, more diverse samples, and facilitates collaborations built on diverse scientific perspectives. The result is a breadth of local to global expertise and a more holistic and comprehensive perspective on factors that influence health outcomes. However, few nurse scientists have published on the interprofessional benefits of these collaborations, suggesting a potential paucity of such partnerships within the nursing profession. The enduring model embodied by the International Nursing Network for HIV Research can be used as an exemplar for developing effective collaborations and includes the following major concepts: (a) conception, (b) implementation, (c) execution and (d) evaluation of study protocols, and (e) the dissemination of research that results from these efforts.

Conclusion:

Nurse scientists contribute to advance health sciences research and collaborate on interprofessional health teams (Cacchione, 2015). The International Nursing Network for HIV Research has included seven successful international multisite research studies on symptom management, health literacy, and health promotion. The collaborative research efforts of the network have resulted in more than 40 peer-reviewed publications that have been cited in more than 2,000 scientific publications. The model used within the network has enabled continued mentorship of novice researchers (graduate students, postdoctoral
fellows, junior faculty), regular presentations at national and international scientific meetings, and has led to a strong voice for nurses in the area of HIV/AIDS care, treatment, and policy. Regardless of the area of interest in nursing, implementing the collaborative model similar to the one used by our network will add invaluable biopsychosocial data, and enrich the research programs and careers of nurse scientists. Our model helps nurse scientists overcome common challenges related to limitations in funding and patient access, and isolation from collaborators and/or limited support within their institution. Such a model promotes camaraderie among scientists and promotes new opportunities for productivity and dissemination. Engaging in collaborative interdisciplinary research will provide nurse scientists at all career levels with opportunities to increase their scientific rigor and impact, and maximize their contributions to nursing science.

Title:
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Keywords:
Collaboration, Nursing and Research

References:


Abstract Summary:
This presentation about International Nursing Network for HIV Research will include recommendations for the formation of collaborative teams and global partnerships, the development and execution of study protocols, and the dissemination of rigorous scientific work to increase the impact and presence of nurses in any field of research.

Content Outline:

1. **Introduction**
   1. Discussion of the history of the International Network for HIV Research
   2. Discussion of the purpose of the International Network for HIV Research
   3. Discussion of the current status and activities of the International Network for HIV Research
4. Purpose of Presentation: Discuss the model in which the network operates and demonstrate how it can be used to form collaborative teams and complete projects

2. Body

1. Identification of Collaborators- where do I find someone to team up with?
   1. Peer-reviewed publications, conferences, online academic searches
      1. Create clear goals of the collaboration
      2. Make commitments for regular meetings and correspondence that become integrated into work responsibilities
         ▪ Avoid committing heavily and delivering nothing

2. Peer- reviewed publications, conferences, online academic searches

3. Put goals in writing
   1. Meeting minutes and work plans

4. Participation in actual projects will depend on funding; offer to all
   0. Fellow scientists should be encouraged to participate in brainstorming and idea sessions even if they are not sure they can be a participating site

3. Conceiving Collaborative Research: Protocols, Funding, Data Collection and Management

1. Discuss the possibilities and resources available at all institutions
   0. One scientist/central site takes lead role by group consensus on individual projects; responsible for creating a finished protocol that is ready to be implemented across sites

1. If no central funding mechanism is available for multiple sites, sites will obtain funding, even if small grant, to contribute data to the final data set

2. Once protocol

4. Protocol Development:
   1. Team works together to design feasible research plan
      ▪ Each site has a PI; protocol developer is overall study PI
   2. Data Collection and Management
      0. Data should be collected across sites and submitted (with compliance) to a central site for overall analyses

1. Each individual site is responsible for their data collection, but also retains ownership of their data for smaller sub-analyses.

5. Dissemination of Collaborative Research: Publications and Presentations

0. Team establishes publication plan in writing at an in-person meeting if possible

1. Peer-Reviewed Publications
   1. All site PIs receive authorship if they contribute data and editorial review of the paper; First and Senior authorship spot reserved for Study PI (developer) and primary author

   2. Individual papers decided as a group prior to opening data set up for smaller site-specific analyses to prevent crossover and duplication of data in the literature

2. Presentations
   1. Presentations require approval from group and should include primary speaking author and idea-generators; with all other collaborators acknowledged for any contribution

3. Once group is no longer using data; open data up to novice researchers, students, and the public where applicable

4. Addressing Challenges

2. Funding problems

3. Authorship Disputes

4. Sample limitations and competing priorities with institution
   0. In each case, open/direct communication, transparency, consensus and thorough documentation of group decisions prevent conflict

3. Conclusion
1. Use of this model enhances collaborative research efforts and presents new opportunities for
2. Adaptation of this model to many areas of nursing will open doors, de-isolate individual researchers, and increase rigor and impact

First Primary Presenting Author

**Primary Presenting Author**
Joseph D. Perazzo, PhD, RN
University of Cincinnati
College of Nursing
Assistant Professor
Cincinnati OH
USA

**Professional Experience:** I have been in the field of research since 2003, and have worked in nursing research since 2011. I earned my PhD in nursing in 2015 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in symptom science in 2017. Currently assistant professor of nursing at the University of Cincinnati.

**Author Summary:** Dr. Joe Perazzo is an Assistant professor of nursing at the University of Cincinnati. His research focus is in the development of clinically translatable interventions to promote healthy behavior in people initiating HIV care.

Second Author
J. Craig Phillips, LLM, PhD, RN, ARNP, ACRN, FAAN
University of Ottawa
Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences
Associate Professor
Ottawa ON
Canada

**Professional Experience:** J. Craig Phillips is associate professor at the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa. He has a Master of Laws (LLM) in Intercultural Human Rights Law with a concentration in health as a human right. He has research and clinical experience in acute care and community settings in Florida, Botswana, and British Columbia. His research funding includes the American Nurses Foundation, the Elton John AIDS Foundation, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. His research includes development of tailored smoking reduction and cessation interventions with HIV+ gay men and a needs assessment of health care providers’ knowledge of HIV-related criminal laws in the United States and Canada. He maintains certifications as an Adult Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (USA), Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (USA-FL), and as an AIDS Care Registered Nurse.

**Author Summary:** Craig Phillips is a nurse practitioner and PhD prepared researcher with more than 20 years of clinical, administrative, research and educational work in HIV. He has extensive national and international experience working with communities affected by HIV, primarily in the United States, Canada and Botswana. He has been co-chair of the International Nursing Network for HIV Research since 2009.

Third Author
Allison R. Webel, PhD, RN
Case Western Reserve University
Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing
Assistant Professor
Cleveland OH
USA

**Professional Experience:** Dr. Webel has been an HIV nurse researcher for over 10 years, publishing 50
Author Summary: Dr. Webel has been an HIV nurse researcher for over 10 years, publishing 50 articles in the field. She was a site PI on this project and is familiar with the data, analysis and background literature supporting this abstract.

Fourth Author
William Holzemer, PhD, RN, FAAN
Rutgers University
School of Nursing
Dean & Distinguished Professor
Newark NJ
USA

Professional Experience: 30 years experience in academic nursing, mentoring junior faculty and doctoral students in the USA, Southern Africa, and Japan. Member American Academy of Nursing, Japan Academy of Nursing, National Academy of Medicine (IOM).

Author Summary: Dr. Bill Holzemer is Dean and Distinguished Professor at Rutgers School of Nursing, New Jersey, USA. His program of research has focused upon improving the quality of life for people living with and affected by HIV in the USA and internationally. Dr. Holzemer is a recipient of the STTI International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame, 2012.